

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXVII, Number 6

Chicago, Illinois

February, 1967

Ladies' Night - Alice Cromie - Joan Bennett - at Ivanhoe, Tue., Feb. 14

Ladies' night is a many-starred event. It's on St. Valentine's night, Tuesday, February 14. The place is the Ivanhoe restaurant and theater, 3000 North Clark street (at Wellington). The speaker is Alice Hamilton Cromie, author of "A Tour Guide to the Civil War." She is the first woman speaker at a Civil War Round Table regular meeting. The play is "Jane," and the famed movie star Joan Bennett has the lead.



Alice Cromie

The Ivanhoe is one of Chicago's older and most renowned restaurants, with a reputation for fine food. Our cocktail hour will be in the Catacombs, a unique feature of the Ivanhoe. Dinner will be in The Keep. For those who wish to remain after the theater, there will be music and dancing and the piano and songs of "Two Ton" Baker.

With such a full evening, President Michael Lerner urges everyone to be prompt on the stated schedule. Al Meyer is dinner chairman.

Mrs. Cromie is acquainted with our group, having been a guest at previous Ladies' Nights. She chose "Serendipity and the Civil War" as her subject because "serendipity means making desirable discoveries by accident." She plans to touch on things she stumbled across in research for her book and in appearances she has made before Civil War Round Tables and other groups since her book came out.

She will refer to discoveries made in the course of research and in mail received, and in unpublished letters and diaries lent. "A woman in a field so long and eminently dominated by men finds gallantry and genuine help on every hand," she says.

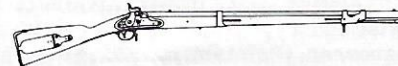
Her husband, Robert Cromie, was a front line correspondent for the Chicago Tribune in World War II and now is the Tribune's Sunday Books editor and conductor of a literary show on WTTW television.

Alice says, "Letters from Bob and assorted friends who were war correspondents reminded me so much in tone and similarity of content and anecdote of Civil War reporters' letters and memoirs." She is using such material in finishing a novel on Civil War reporters and actors of the period.

She is working on a Tour Guide to the Old West which will follow the same format as "A Tour Guide to the Civil War." She is roughing out another book which stems from research in graveyards and town squares about monuments. "American monuments from the end of the Civil War to the end of the century are not



Joan Bennett



258th REGULAR MEETING

LADIES' NIGHT

Alice Hamilton Cromie

on

"Serendipity and the Civil War"

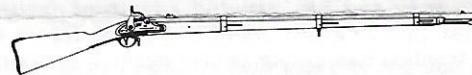
IVANHOE THEATER

Joan Bennett in "Jane"

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1967

Ivanhoe Restaurant and Theater	Cocktails at 5:15 p.m.
3000 North Clark Street	in the Catacombs
Dinner: 6:30 p.m. in The Keep	Speaking: 7:30 p.m.
Intermission: 8:00 p.m.	Theater: 8:30 p.m.

RESERVATIONS: \$16 per couple; \$8 single.
Mail check with reservations, give full names of persons in party. Inquiries: Whitehall 4-3085. Restaurant has public parking and also by doorman



only historical, but hysterical," she says. "I got started off with a statue of Bacchus in Baltimore — grapes galore."

Alice is a native of Chariton, Iowa, grew up in Kansas City, attended the journalism school at University of Missouri, and got her BA degree from University of Texas. She has been a free lance writer since journalism school days when she began to sell light verse and humorous prose to the Saturday Evening Post and other "big slicks". She has contributed articles, short stories, prose, and verse to newspapers and magazines including Look, Reader's Digest, and Ladies Home Journal. She has done "tons of greeting cards" and written free lance advertising copy. For four years she was done a Tribune column on crime book reviews.

Joan Bennett's play, "Jane," is a lively comedy written by S. N. Behrman and is based on a short story by W. Somerset Maugham. The play was produced by the Theater Guild in New York in 1952 and was shown in Chicago the next year.

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THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street,
Chicago 11, Illinois
Phone: WHitehall 4-3085

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LADIES' NIGHT

Continued from Pg. 1

Miss Bennett has more than seventy screen credits, including "Disraeli," "Little Women," "Father of the Bride," and "Father's Little Dividend." She has been starred with Gregory Peck, Spencer Tracy, John Barrymore, Ronald Colman, George Arliss, and others.

She toured last summer and winter with the recent Ivanhoe star, Tom Ewell, in "Never Too Late." She is currently starring in ABC-TV's daytime drama, "Dark Shadows."

The play, "Jane," will be seen in the plush new, 600 seat Ivanhoe theater. It is the first all-electric theater in the country and has created an air of excitement in the theater that Chicago hasn't had in too long a time.

The Ivanhoe has ample public parking and also parking by doorman.

Reservations accompanied by check are required for Ladies' night. Please give first name of your wife or lady friend and full names of guests for use on lapel cards. See meeting notice for times and fees.

DR. FREDERICK TILBERG, senior historian (retired) of Gettysburg National Military Park, has received the Meritorious Service Award signed by Stewart L. Udall, secretary of the interior. The citation mentions Dr. Tilberg's work at Gettysburg on park visitor programs, interpretive facilities, and historical research and his thorough knowledge of the Battle of Gettysburg which have "contributed greatly to the image of the National Park Service." Also mentioned are his work toward donation of land to the park, his promotion of good relations between the town of Gettysburg and the park, and the three historical handbooks he wrote on Gettysburg, Antietam, and Fort Necessity. Dr. Tilberg is an Honorary Award Life Member of our Round Table.

*from the
Editor's pen*



Our own George J. Fleming gave a solid and rapid-fire run-down on John A. Logan in his talk on "Political Generals" to 71 members and guests at our January 13 meeting. Logan was born in Murphysboro, Illinois, to a family that had been wheels in Democratic politics for a long time. John gained a reputation as a hellraiser as a young man, but married a smart young woman who turned out to be a skilled politician, too, and some say a better writer than John. He rode the circuit as a lawyer and gained stature in the legislature during the political crises of the 1850's, then became a Democratic Congressman.

When the Civil War came, all southern Illinois watched for John Logan's move. "If Logan had turned to the South, how safe would Cairo, St. Louis, and southern Illinois have been?" Fleming asked. "Many would have gone south with him." But Logan assailed both abolitionists and secessionists and then turned to the North to raise a regiment. He fought with Grant from Belmont to Vicksburg, and then with Sherman at Atlanta. There he gained command of an army when its leader fell. But Sherman replaced him with O. O. Howard. This was a bitter blow to Logan and added to complaints that West Pointers were running the war. Sherman said they were more dependable.

After the war, Logan became just as ardent in the ranks of the Republicans as he had been with the Democrats and had a prominent career in the House, Senate, and Grand Army of the Republic. In the discussion period, Fleming allowed that, tho political generals were the bane of Grant and Lincoln, Logan probably was the best of the lot. It also was brought out during the question period that the first Memorial Day parade in Chicago was May 30, 1868, and that proper note will be taken of it in Illinois' Sesquicentennial year, 1968.

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President Mike Lerner announced that the auction for the benefit of the Graduate Fellowship Award fund will be held in the spring. Date and details will be announced later.

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Treasurer Marshall Krolick announced that, as in previous years, dues for the final half of the year will be half price, \$10. Here's another inducement to bring in new members.

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To a meeting of twenty Camp Followers at the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, Mrs. Gerhard Clausius presented her husband's paper on "Mary Lincoln After the Tragedy." Outlining Mary's life from childhood, the paper analyzed the psychological breakdown of this ill-fated woman and with sympathetic treatment gave the Camp Followers a warm and revealing interpretation of Mary Lincoln. Camp Followers reported that Ella Clausius gave a good delivery of her husband's well balanced paper. The next gathering of the CFs will be March 20.

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At the board of trustees meeting it was decided to make the price \$16 per couple for Ladies' Night - which is still below cost, but will leave a lesser deficit demand on the CWRT treasurer.

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Elmer C. Brinkman, chairman of the Speakers Bureau, has placed three speakers for February. On the 9th, Ver Lynn Sprague is at the Racine (Wis.) Historical Society; on the 10th Miner Coburn speaks to the American Society of Civil Engineers, and on Lincoln's birthday, Stuart Golding speaks to the Tippecanoe (Ind.) Historical Society.

BATTLE OF PEA RIDGE

By Edwin C. Bearss

On Christmas Day, 1861, Union Gen. Samuel R. Curtis was named to command the Southwestern District of Missouri. His mission was to drive the secessionist forces from the state. Acting with more determination than his immediate predecessor, Curtis commenced a drive toward Springfield. Curtis' immediate opponent was Gen. Sterling Price. As Curtis' columns pushed forward, Price evacuated Springfield and retired down the Telegraph road, crossing into Arkansas on Feb. 16, 1862. In Arkansas, Price's Missourians rendezvoused with Gen. Ben McCulloch's Confederates.

By the last of February, Price and McCulloch had taken position deep in the Boston mountains. Meanwhile, Curtis had called a halt at Cross Hollows to regroup and bring up supplies of men and material. On March 3, Gen. Earl Van Dorn arrived and took command of Price's and McCulloch's troops. The next day, Van Dorn led his army northward; his plan was to beat Curtis in detail.

Federal scouts alerted Curtis to the danger, and he ordered his four divisions to take position on the heights overlooking Little Sugar Creek. On March 6, Van Dorn's vanguard clashed with troops of Gen. Franz Sigel's corps as they fell back from Bentonville to the Little Sugar Creek line. The Confederates, however, failed to prevent Sigel from joining Curtis.

Aware that it would be suicidal to launch a frontal attack on Curtis' army, the Confederates determined to turn the Union position. A night march up the Bentonville Detour was ordered. Delays frustrated the Confederates, enabling Curtis to order troops to Elkhorn Tavern to shield his rear. Van Dorn now blundered. He divided his army. Price and his Missourians were to advance down the Telegraph road and assail the Federals at Elkhorn Tavern, while McCulloch countermarched his troops and passed to the west of Pea Ridge. The Confederate army now separated into two wings, with an impassable barrier, Pea Ridge, between.

On March 7 there were two battles. McCulloch's Confederates and Pike's Indians fought two Union divisions near Leetown. At first, the Confederates swept all before them. McCulloch and his second in command were killed and shortly thereafter the tide turned in this sector. Pike's Indians and McCulloch's Confederates, now led by Col. E. Greer, were swept from the field. Meanwhile, two and one-half miles to the northeast, Price's Missourians and Col. Eugene A. Carr's bluecoats were locked in a savage contest for control of the area about Elkhorn Tavern. Late in the day, Price's Missourians gained the upper hand, and Carr's bluecoats were compelled to fall back about one-half mile.

On the night of the 7th, Curtis and Van Dorn regrouped their troops near Elkhorn Tavern. When the fight was resumed shortly after daybreak, the Confederates at first held the upper hand. Gen. Sigel, however, by a skillful use of artillery soon turned the tide. At 10 a.m. Van Dorn, learning that ammunition was running short, gave the order to retire. As he withdrew from the area, most of the Confederates took the Huntsville road, leaving the victorious Federals in possession of the field. By noon on March 8 the battle of Pea Ridge was over.

(Editor's note: Ed Bearss' newest book, **HARDLUCK IRONCLAD**, delayed in publication, is now available.)

ALICE CROMIE, our Ladies' Night speaker, and **RALPH NEWMAN** will appear in a discussion of the Civil War on Bill Veeck's program on station WFLD, channel 32, on Friday, February 10. Check your TV listings for the time.

Battlefield Tour, April 20-23

The 17th Annual Battlefield Tour is from Thursday, April 20 through Sunday, April 23. It will be by plane and bus to Springfield, Mo., Wilson's Creek; Rogers and Fayetteville, Ark., Pea Ridge and Prairie Grove; Kansas City, Independence, and Lexington, Mo., the battles of Lone Jack, Westport, and Lexington, and a visit to the Harry Truman home and library. The cost will be \$195 double (two to a room) and \$210 single. Because plane, hotel, and meal reservations must be confirmed early, an abbreviated schedule and reservation form has been sent out requiring a \$25 deposit by February 10 and the balance by April 10. Please help by acting quickly.

As in previous years, the group will have the knowledge and guidance of exceptional people: E. B. (Pete) Long as narrator on the plane and at Lone Jack; Dr. H. Lee Hoover and others at Springfield, Mo.; Edwin C. Bearss and the park historian, at Pea Ridge, James Murray and W. J. Lemke at Prairie Grove; Dr. Howard Monnett at Kansas City; Supt. Col. Lester B. Wikoff at Wentworth Military academy, and Mrs. Charles Ehlers at Lexington, and the library staff at Independence. We will have the companionship of the local Civil War Round Tables at Springfield and Kansas City. Past years have shown that extra dividends turn up on each tour.

The regular tour leaflet will be mailed early in March. As always, it will be cramped for space. So, this month, and in March and April the newsletter will carry in the column to the left some tour information to supplement that of the tour issue.

THE ILLINOIS Sesquicentennial commission has announced a statewide competition to obtain a postage stamp commemorating Illinois' 150th year of statehood in 1968. If approved by the United States Post Office department, a commemorative stamp will be issued on Feb. 12, 1968, at Shawneetown. The contest is open to amateurs and professionals who are residents of Illinois, full-time students in Illinois, or employed in Illinois. Entries should be mailed to the Stamp Advisory Committee, Illinois Sesquicentennial Commission, 1936 N. Clark St., Chicago, Ill. 60614 before March 15, 1967. The Stamp Design committee will choose five winners for prizes of \$500 each. The five designs will be submitted to the Post Office which may award up to \$1,000 more to the one selected. A printing of 120 million stamps is to be made.

Two of our members, Frank Cale and Win Stracke, are running for alderman in the 43rd ward.

First prize for the Lincoln play contest sponsored by Southern Illinois University, the Abraham Lincoln association, and the Illinois Sesquicentennial commission has been raised to \$4,500 and the announced \$1,000 second prize eliminated.

President Delbert J. Gatton of Louisville CWRT has forwarded a check for \$50 as the Louisville Round Table's contribution to the Graduate Fellowship Award fund.

James L. Hupp, archivist and state historian of West Virginia, reports that about 6,000 medals remain unclaimed by relatives of Union army veterans who fought in the Civil War. You can get in touch with him at the State Capitol, Charleston, W. Va.

THE NEW BOOKS



SPURS TO GLORY: The Story of the United States Cavalry, by James M. Merrill (Rand McNally & Co., \$6.95).

TIMOTHY O'SULLIVAN, America's Forgotten Photographer, by James D. Horan (Doubleday, 334 pages, \$15). Pupil of Brady and Gardner and field photographer in last three years of Civil War.

CHAPLAIN DAVIS AND HOOD'S TEXAS BRIGADE, edited by Donald E. Everett (Principia Press, Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas 78212, 234pp. \$6). An expanded edition of Rev. Nicholas A. Davis' "Campaign from Texas to Maryland, with the Battle of Sharpsburg" (Richmond, 1863).

MAJOR CALEB HUSE, C.S.A., edited by Thomas W. Green (Studies in Confederate History, 45pp, Confederate Historical Society, K. M. Broughton, 19 Montague Ave., Leigh on Sea, Essex, England, \$1). Confederate purchasing operations in the United Kingdom.

WHEN A HUNDRED THOUSAND FELL, by Joseph P. Cullen (Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. 20402, 56pp, 70¢). Covers battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, The Wilderness, and Spotsylvania.

CIVIL WAR NAVAL CHRONOLOGY (Supt. of Documents, 477pp, \$2.50). See note below.

BOOK NOTES

JOE CULLEN'S booklet is No. 39 and newest in the Historical Handbook Series of the National Park Service. Cullen was speaker at our 197th meeting, Jan. 13, 1961, on "The Peninsula Campaign of 1862." In the handbook he writes of four battlefields within a radius of 17 miles where there were 100,000 casualties.

Fredericksburg lay midway between the Confederate capitol at Richmond, and the national capitol at Washington, D.C. Parts of all four battlefields now form the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial Military Park.

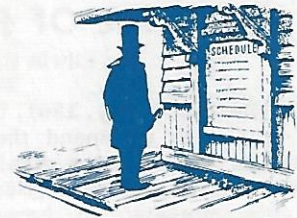
The booklet furnishes considerable information about the movement of the Federal Army of the Potomac and General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, the planning and strategy followed. The booklet is well illustrated, including several color pictures, maps, sketches, and drawings.

U.S. NAVAL HISTORY DIVISION, under Rear Adm. E. M. Eller (ret.) has completed publication of the **CIVIL WAR NAVAL CHRONOLOGY** with Part VI. It has special articles, cumulative index, and many fine photographs showing what life was like at sea during the war, plus drawings, maps, and diagrams. An unusual section has reproductions of naval sheet music. A letter from Dr. William May who identified the body of John Wilkes Booth is reproduced. Some eyewitness stories from journals are printed. There are pictures of blockade runners. All parts of the Chronology are available from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. 20402, the prices as follows:

Part I (1861)	\$0.25	Part V (1865)	\$0.75
Part II (1862)	\$0.60	Part VI (Cumulative	
Part III (1863)	\$1.00	Index and Special	
Part IV (1864)	\$0.75	Studies -	\$2.50

The Chronology received an Award of Distinction from the Civil War Centennial Commission and is one of the outstanding productions of the centennial years. Our CWRT Distinguished Service Award was presented to Admiral Eller.

BULLETIN BOARD



FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday, March 20 — Col. Harold B. Simpson, "Jefferson Davis and the United States Camel Corps."

April 20-23 — 17th Annual Battlefield Tour to Wilson's Creek, Pea Ridge, Prairie Grove, Lone Jack, Westport, Independence, and Lexington (Mo.).

Wednesday, April 26 — Fred Benton, Jr., "The Battle and Siege of Port Hudson."

Tuesday, May 25 — Henry Simmons, "Northern Censorship of the Press: Necessary or Needless?"

Friday, June 23 — J. Robert Smith, "Gen. Mike Lawler."

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NEW MEMBERS: Henry W. McGee, 433 W. Van Buren St., Room 422, Chicago, Ill. 60607; Joseph R. Oswald, 9330 S. Longwood Dr., Chicago, Ill. 60620; L. P. Ramsdell, 909 Michigan Ave., La Porte, Ind. 46350; Morris Weiser, 6831 N. Lowell Ave., Lincolnwood, Ill. 60464.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Rodney Robert Miller, Jr., to: 2085 Danelle Drive, Florissant, Mo. 63031.

AVAILABLE at meetings: Lapel pin, \$2; Key chain with CWRT emblem, 50¢; Cloth patch of emblem, 50¢.



CONFEDERATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY of London has reached a membership of 277 after a start with 25 five years ago; 140 are in Britain, 120 in the United States, and 17 in nine other countries. Now, in addition to its quarterly Journal, the society plans a newsletter at intervals between issues of the Journal. The "Notes and Queries" section of the Journal will be absorbed into the newsletter along with details of society activities, and items of transitory interest. It will have an advertising section at 3 cents per word. The Editor will be W. A. Horsewell, 9 Bosbury Road, Catford, London S.E. 6, England. The C.H.S. schedule of meetings for 1967, all on Wednesdays, is Feb. 15, March 29, May 3, June 7, July 19, Aug. 30, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, and Dec. 6. Meetings are in the dining room above Ordnance Arms, 79 York Road, London S.E.1, England.

THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, created in 1889, asked a Washington, D.C., court to stop the American Historical Society, organized in 1965, from using the organization's name or others "deceptively similar" for publication and sale of historic works. The latter group, headed by Rep. Fred Schwengel (R., Iowa), conferred with attorneys for the A.H.A. and agreed that the A.H.S. would become known as the Historical Society of the United States. U.S. District Court Judge Alexander Holtzoff said, "I congratulate you on getting this out of the way in this dignified manner. After all, we have two groups of scholars here and we don't want to fight over a name."

Mrs. Carol S. Moffatt, Baker Memorial Library, Hanover, New Hampshire, asks for help in locating letters and other manuscript writings of Daniel Webster for the Webster Papers project. If you know where any of this material can be found, in private collections or archives, please write to Mrs. Moffatt.